

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached replacement and annotated sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 1-3 as follows.

FIG. 1 has been amended to remove the cross hatching on the end of the pin.

FIG. 2 has been amended to remove the cross hatching on the end of the pin.

FIG. 3 has been amended to change reference numerals and to better illustrate the hinge pin.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed May 15, 2006 has been carefully considered in the Office Action Claims 1-3 and 6-16 stand rejected. In addition, Claims 4 and 5 have been objected to. The Applicant has amended Claims 1, 6 and 13 and has cancelled Claim 16. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue all canceled claims in continuation and/or divisional applications. In addition, the Applicant has added new Claims 17-19. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Objection to Drawings

Figures 1-3 has been objected to in the Office Action for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84. The Applicant has amended Figures 1-3 and provided replacement Figures 1-3 in this response. The Applicant respectfully requests the objection now be withdrawn.

Informal Objections

Within the Office Action, the specification has been objected to. In response, the Applicant has amended Paragraph 32 of the original specification. In addition Claims 1, 6 and 13 were objected to for having various informalities. To expedite prosecution, the Applicant has amended Claims 1, 6 and 13. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the objections be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C 112

Within the Office Action Claims 6-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 2nd paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which the Applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant has amended Claim 6 in response and requests that the rejection to Claims 6-15 be respectfully withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 2, 6-13 and 16 have been rejected separately under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 1,900,081 to Swerer (hereinafter "Swerer"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Swerer

The Swerer reference relates to a door hinge which allows a door to be moved closer or farther away from a jamb to allow the door to swing open and closed after it expands and contracts due to changes in temperature and humidity. In particular, Swerer describes a first portion 4 of the hinge which is attached to a jamb 5, whereby the first portion 4 has sleeves 6. In addition, the device includes a second portion 1 which is attached to the door 2, whereby the second portion has circular sleeves 3. Sleeves 3 and sleeves 6 are eccentrically aligned and have eccentrics 7 and 8, respectfully, whereby the eccentrics 7 and 8 have bores which line up to allow a pin 9 to be inserted therethrough. This allows the door to open and close and be slightly offset from the jamb. When the user wants to move the door 2 closer to the jamb 5, he rotates the hexagonal pin 9 about its axis, whereby the eccentrics rotate about the pin axis to move the sleeves closer toward each other or further away from each other. This, in turn, causes the door 2 to respectively move closer or further away from the jamb 5.

Claim 1 recites, among other things, the first and second parts have one rotatable degree of freedom that is fixed along the hinge pin axis of the pin. Swerer in fact teaches the opposite of this limitation, because the eccentric members 7 and 8 rotate about the hinge pin 9 within their

respective sleeves 3 and 6 to move the door 2 closer to or further away from the jamb 5. This is shown in particular in Figures 3-6 of Swerer in which the hexagonal shaped pin 9 is rotated about its axis to cause the eccentrics 7 and 8 to rotate about the hinge axis. Therefore, Swerer does not disclose that the first and second sleeves or eccentrics have one rotatable degree of freedom that is fixed along the hinge pin axis of the pin, as recited in Claim 1. For at least these reasons, Swerer does not expressly or inherently teach each and every element of Claim 1 which is required to make a *prima facie* case under 35 U.S.C. § 102. For at least these reasons Claim 1 is allowable over Swerer.

In regards to Claim 6, Claim 6 is allowable over Swerer. In particular, Claim 6 recites among other things, that the first and second circular members of the respective first and second structures are unable to rotate with respect to one another about the third axis of the coupling member. As stated above, Swerer actually teaches the opposite of this limitation, because rotation of the hinge pin 9 will cause the eccentric members 7 and 8 to rotate within their sleeves 3 and 6 along the hinge member axis 9 to bring the door closer to or further away from the jamb. For at least these reasons, Swerer does not recite each and every element of Claim 6. Accordingly, Claim 6 is allowable over Swerer.

In addition, the Applicant has added dependent Claim 17 which states that the second axis is offset vertically upwards from the first axis. This is not taught in Swerer, and therefore the limitations in Claim 17 with that in Claim 1 are not taught by Swerer.

In addition, Claims 2-5 and 17 are dependent on Claim 1 and Claims 7-15 as well as Claim 18 are dependent on Claim 6. As stated above, Claim 1 and Claim 6 are allowable over Swerer. Therefore, Claims 2-5, 7-15 and 17-18 are all allowable for being dependent on base claims.

Coone

In addition, within the Office Action Claims 6 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,225,264 to Coone (hereinafter referred to as “Coone”).

Coone discloses an apparatus for quickly coupling misaligned flanges which are disposed on the exterior of tubes. In particular to Figure 2, Coone describes that the top flange 11 and the bottom flange 12 each include plugs such that the top flange includes a plug 13 and the bottom flange 12 includes a plug 14. The plugs are rotatable with respect to their respective flanges to align the bores 21A, 23 of each plug to receive a bolt 25. Once the bores are aligned, the installer attaches the flanges together by placing the bolt 25 through the aligned bores to attach the top and bottom flange together.

Claim 6 recites, in the preamble, an assembly to allow coupled movement between two structures. In contrast to Claim 6, Coone does not teach coupled movement between two structures, because the basic premise behind Coone is to allow quick alignment and coupling of tubes in harsh environments (e.g. deep sea and subterranean oil and gas wells). Thus, once the bolts are placed and attached to the flanges, the tubes are unable to move with respect to one another. This is actually admitted to in the Office Action on page 8, Paragraph 2, last sentence, “(note that once the circular members are bolted down, the circular members will not move)”. This is also supported in Coone that the seal 32 comes into contact with the inner surface of the opposing flange to form an airtight chamber between the tubes once the flanges are attached. Thus, it is understood that the plugs, flanges and tubes cannot move after they are coupled to one another. For at least these reasons, Coone does not anticipate Claim 6 and Claim 6 is allowable over Coone.

In addition, the Applicant has added dependent Claim 18 which states that the second axis is offset vertically upwards from the first axis. This is not taught in Coone, and therefore the limitations in Claim 18 with that in Claim 6 are not taught by Coone.

In addition, Claim 19 is allowable over Swerer for at least the reasons stated above. Claim 19 is a new claim and is fully supported by the specification. It does not include any new matter. Claim 19 is allowable over Swerer and Coone, individually or in combination, considering that Claim 19 recites, among other things, that the suspended structure moves with respect to the load bearing structure about a second axis which is adjacent to the first and third axis. Coone also does not teach a suspended and load bearing member. In addition, Claim 19 recites that the first and second circular members are unable to rotate with respect to one another about the third axis and that the second axis is offset vertically from the first axis. For at least the reasons stated above, Claim 19 is distinguishable over Swerer and Coone and is allowable over these references.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Swerer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,484,363 to Chung. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 14 are dependent on Independent Claims 1 and 6. As stated above, Claims 1 and 6 are allowable over Swerer. Accordingly, Claims 3 and 4 are allowable for being dependent on allowable base claims.

New Claims

The Applicant has added new claims 17-19. The Applicant submits that new Claims 17-19 are fully supported by the specification and do not contain any new matter. Allowance of Claims 17-19 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


It is believed that this response places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of the application is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 8/15/06


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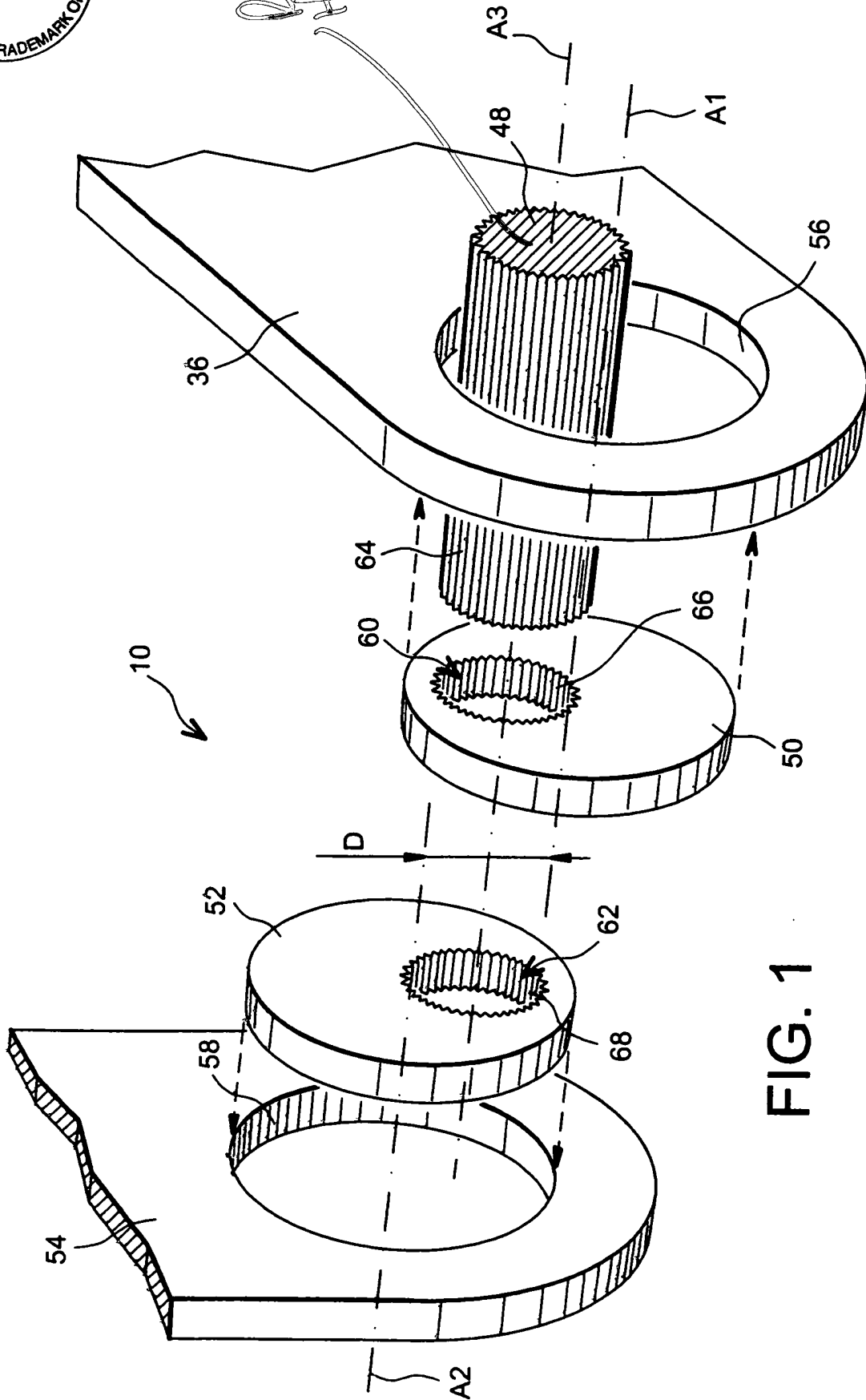


FIG. 1

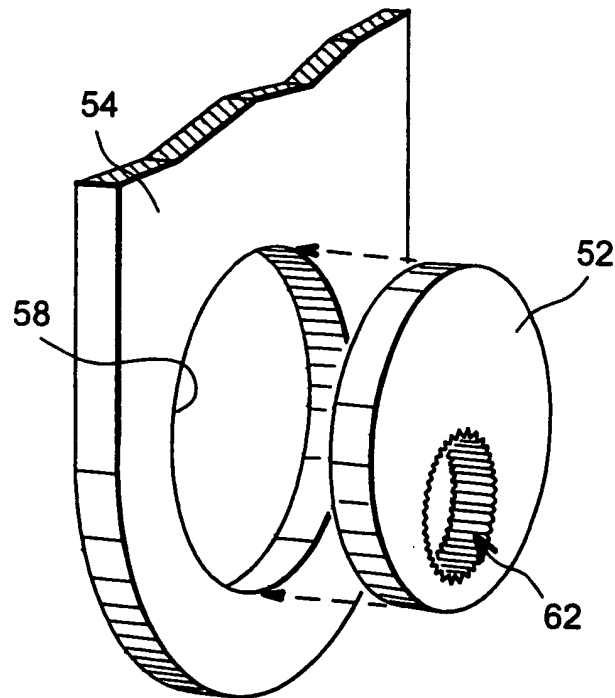


FIG. 2

